

THE COMMONS

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Social Settlement Point of View.

Whole Number 28.

CHICAGO.

AUGUST, 1898.



HAPPINESS IN THE SWING.
Characteristic Scene in a School-Yard Playground.

SCHOOL-YARD PLAYGROUNDS.

Closing of the Good Work which has been Carried on at Six of the Chicago Public Schools.—Views of the Children at their Play.

THE experiment of using the school-yards as public playgrounds for the children of the crowded districts of Chicago has proved a success from every point of view, and the closing exercises held in the yards on Thursday afternoon, August 25th, brought to a regretful termination for this year at least an approximation of what the school-yards should always be used for.

Six yards were used: two on the North Side, the old Franklin, now the Lyman Trumbull

School, at Division and Sedgwick streets, and the Kinzie School at Ohio street and La Salle avenue; one on the West Side, the Washington North Morgan street, near West Ohio; two in the crowded Seventh Ward—the Walsh School at Johnson and Twentieth, and the Washburne on Fourteenth street near South Union; and the Holden School, at Thirty-first and Loomis streets, had its beautiful yard in full use.

In addition to the yards, the kindergarten room at the Foster School, O'Brien and Union streets, was used as a playroom, and Miss Mary E. Johnson, the trained kindergartner who had charge there, made a glowing success of the organization of several clubs of the neighborhood children for rational play and co-operating amusement.

A pleasant feature of the work was the loan by several of the Turner societies of athletic apparatus, parallel bars, jumping poles, ladder see-saws and the like, upon which both girls and boys were drilled in simple athletics.

By an appropriation of the City Council of \$1,000 for the "improvement of small parks and temporary playgrounds for children during vacation," it was possible to equip the yards with swings, sand-piles and see-saws, and to place in each yard a competent custodian to care for the property, guide and control the boys, and direct the athletics, and a fund raised by private gifts in connection with the vacation school fund added to each yard a trained kindergartner to care for and play with the little children.

These playgrounds have been a godsend to the neighborhoods in which they were located, and the police say that it has cut down their trouble with juvenile mischief in these localities to almost nothing. Mothers have sent away their children in the mornings with the assurances that for the day they were safe, and it has been the unanimous testimony of the neighbors in every case that the playground was a blessing. A few illustrations given herewith show some of the happy groups at their play.

THE FAITHFUL WORKERS.

The custodians and kindergartners in charge of the various grounds were as follows:

Lyman Trumbull School: Adolf H. Post, Miss Gertrude Steele.

Kinzie School: Henry M. Pinkerton, Miss Georgia A. Richey.

Washington School: Konstantin Momiroff, Miss Carrie Kienapple.

Washburne School: Carl E. Richards, Miss Phila B. Wood.

Walsh School: Rudolf Lautenbach, Miss Laura R. Pratt.

Holden School: Vance Rawson, Miss Margaret Benson.

Without exception these workers have shown conspicuous fitness for their work, and have built of their lives into the citizenship of Chicago for all time. The committee in active charge of the administration of the playgrounds included Charles Zueblin, chairman; John P. Gavit, secretary; Rev. N. B. W. Gallwey, William Horace Noyes, and there was a co-operating group of helpful women who assisted in the various yards as they were able.

It is hoped that this work was only the forerunner of a larger and permanent effort which shall eventually, perhaps soon, have municipal recognition.

Miss Jane Addams and her fellow-residents

of Hull House gave the Vacation School Teachers and Executive Board a most enjoyable reception on the afternoon before the close of the vacation schools, and the playground workers were entertained at Chicago Commons on the evening of Monday, August 29, after the closing of the school-yards.

SOCIAL "OVERFLOW" OF THE WAR.

[BY PROF. GRAHAM TAYLOR.]

If there is a social "under-tow" of the war, such as was suggested in the June issue of *THE COMMONS*, there is also an "overflow" of social consciousness due to the war, to be noted throughout the nation.

"The dearth of political feeling," which Speaker Reed says is greater than he has ever seen it, raises the question in the *London Times* whether "Bryanism is dead?" and in many an American mind whether this dearth of divisive political feeling is the death of those issues upon the outcome of which social progress depends.

Nothing is more evident than that there suddenly came to us a new national unity, only eighteen months after the most divisive political campaign since that which brought on the civil war. It is not a mere ebullition of patriotic fervor brought to the surface by the stirring pageant of conquering armies and victorious fleets. It is real, and comes from the depths of the nation's deepest feeling. Neither is it a mere passing gust of feeling. It is nothing less than the awakening of the social self-consciousness of seventy millions of people. We have discovered the larger world of which we find ourselves to be an integral part. In one summer we have so far outgrown our little "Monroe Doctrine" that no party or administration would dare to try to crowd the nation back into the self-centered isolation and *laissez-faire* diplomacy which the preceding administration so stoutly maintained with relation to Venezuela and Hawaii. For our own and the world's good or ill we are at last out of our continental corner on the open sea of a destiny which is forever to be more Human than American.

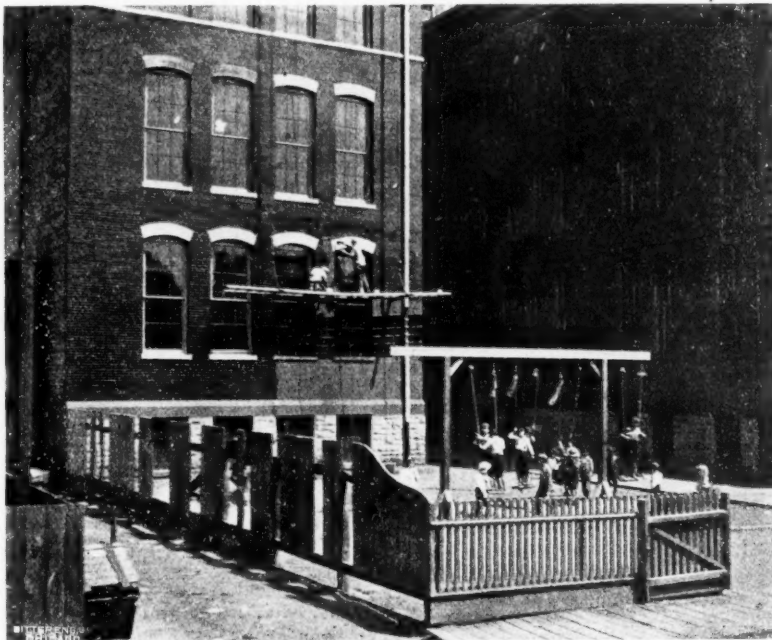
Notwithstanding all the under-tow to the dangers of which we are no less alive than when pointing them out, we now maintain that this world-wide movement of the national consciousness is fraught with far more good than ill. If in one aspect it has crystallized the national unity within lines which may make it temporarily harder to maintain the class-consciousness of labor for the achievement of its

own emancipation, in another aspect, by breaking down the Chinese wall within which we have vainly tried to live to ourselves, it will make it easier for our people to make common cause with all other peoples for the uplift of the common life and labor.

It looks like a fulfillment of Mazzini's prophecy that a cosmopolitan patriotism cannot be directly obtained by disintegrating nations into individual units, with the whole earth for each one's only fatherland; that only through the union of the nation for the fulfillment of its mission toward all other nations can the real Inter-

line" and "between decks," as they seldom are either acknowledged or seen in the still braver campaigns of our greater industrial army. Captain Evans of the Iowa reports, "I cannot express my admiration for my magnificent crew. So long as the enemy showed his flag they fought like American seamen, but when the flag came down they were as gentle and tender as American women."

The loyalty of Labor, at first opposed to the war, is typified in an episode reported from Montauk Point when the great camp was being prepared for the reception of the heroes of



IN THE WASHBURNE YARD.

How a Very Small Corner in a Crowded Quarter was Utilized for the Children.

national be constituted; that Democracy can never establish liberty, equality and fraternity permanently among any one people without extending democratic duties and rights to all peoples; and that the consummation of social progress is to be achieved through the Association of the Peoples.

Of a really closer social unity in America there are not a few more signs than there were before the war. The magnificent manhood and courage of the rank and file of our soldiers and sailors has been recognized on the "thin red

Santiago. The carpenters at first refused to work on Sunday because the rule of their union, in order to protect their rest-day, demanded the forfeiture of two days' wages when double pay was not exacted for Sunday work. When the commanding officer urged the humanity of providing the necessities of life for the worn-out and half-sick soldiers about to disembark from the transports, one carpenter is reported to have stepped forward and said, "I'll give my day's work to the government," at which signal every other carpenter volunteered his services for the day.

"God and the People."

The Commons

A MONTHLY RECORD
DEVOTED TO
ASPECTS OF LIFE AND LABOR
FROM THE SOCIAL SETTLEMENT
POINT OF VIEW.

JOHN P. GAVIT,

EDITOR.

Published on the last day of each month from CHICAGO COMMONS, a Social Settlement at 140 North Union Street, Chicago, Ill.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Fifty cents a year. (Two shillings, English; 2.50 francs, French—foreign stamps accepted.)

Postpaid to any State or Country.

Six copies to one address for \$2.50.

Send check, draft, P. O. money order, cash or stamps, not above 5-cent denominations AT OUR RISK.

Renewals—The change in the date on the address label will ordinarily serve as receipt for renewals. These changes are made once in two months. In accordance with custom, and the expressed wish of many subscribers, we continue *THE COMMONS* to each address until notified to the contrary.

Changes of Address—Please notify the publishers promptly of any change of address, or of failure to receive the paper within a reasonable interval after it is due.

Advertisements—First-class advertisements desired at reasonable rates, which will be furnished upon application.

No. 28.

CHICAGO.

AUG. 31, 1898.

IF ANY reader of *THE COMMONS* is skeptical as to the value of a summer camp for boys, we refer his attention to the letter of Mr. Weeks on the subject in another column of this issue.

THE most attractive advertisement of a Young Men's Christian Association that we have seen is the booklet, "The Association: What It Is and Is Doing," sent us from the Cleveland Y. M. C. A. The book is by John E. Powers and in a most succinct and taking form presents the work of the Association. It would be a help and inspiration to any association worker.

THE good work which is being done by the Christian Social Union through its monthly publications for the education of the church in matters of social reform has no better attestation than in the pamphlet which has just come to hand on "Church Printing." It is a review of the attitude of the Episcopal Church upon the subject of the labor conditions under

which church printing is done, and shows that that great church has made good, though as yet tardy progress in the matter of assuring the standard of the shops where its official printing is done. All interested in the attitude of the church toward labor conditions should send ten cents for this pamphlet to "Secretary, Christian Social Union, Diocesan House, Boston."

THE poem "August Days," by Rev. Frank Norman Dexter, of New London, Wis., who contributed "June Days" to the May *COMMONS*, is by no means the equal of the former poem as a piece of literary work, but it has a quality of simplicity and vigor that goes far to atone for minor deficiencies of style, and we are glad and grateful to have it just at this time for the lesson it has to teach.

ONE of the best indications of the progress of economic thought in this country is the growing vitality of the single tax movement. It is becoming more and more respectable to believe in the absorption by the community of economic rent of land, and while we do not espouse the single tax cause we are of those who believe that land nationalization must be one of the steps toward justice in the not distant future. We are glad to note the rapid growth and increasing popularity of the *National Single Taxer*, the official organ of the United States and Canada. During the past few years, it has grown from an insignificant weekly of small circulation to an ably edited and representative paper circulating in every section of the country. Not the least significant fact is that most of this progress has been made since the death of Henry George. The announcement is now made that the *National Single Taxer* has outgrown its present quarters in Minneapolis, and that after Sept. 1st it will be published from New York. At the same time James R. Brown and Joseph Dana Miller, single taxers of national reputation, will assume the management, and the general editorial and business staff will be strengthened. The New York address is 119 East 23rd street.

The *Mansfield House Magazine* reports the travels of Percy Alden, warden of that settlement, with encouraging news of restoring health and pleasant meetings in Australia and New Zealand with old friends from English school and university days.

The London settlements are contributing largely of earnest work in their various districts toward the sending to the country of 30,000 children from the crowded districts of London.

[FOR THE COMMONS.]

AUGUST DAYS.

BY FRANK NORMAN DEXTER.

The day has been hot in the crowded city,
The sun has scorched all without any pity.
The flagstones reflect the intolerable heat,
No breath of fresh air in house or in street.
"Oh lay off to-morrow," the children are saying,
"Let's go to the country, where the coolness is staying."
The father replies, "I can't go, but the rest
Of you start away early, and get you the best
Day's fun that you can." So they went and came back,
And Mary, and Jimmie, and Julia, and Jack,
And mamma thus spoke of their doings that day,
They spent in the country a few miles away:

MARY: "I saw a pretty yellow bird
Eating on a thistle,
And I heard a song sparrow's
Merry, merry whistle;
And I saw a king bird
Chase a great big crow—
How it made us clap our hands
When we saw him go.
O, papa, dear, I wished so much
That you were with us too!"—

JACK: "Oh, pa! I heard a g'at big f'og
Say, 'Wer-oo! Wer-oo! Wer-oo!'"

JIMMIE: "I chased a little crippled bird
That couldn't hardly fly,
And what you think! Why pretty soon
She rose clear in the sky!
And mamma said it was a snipe
Doing her very best
To lead the little city folks
Away from her nest.
And, oh, the flocks of blackbirds,
And pretty squirrels, too!"—

JACK: "O, pa! I heard a g'at big f'og
Say, 'Wer-oo! Wer-oo! Wer-oo!'"

JULIA: "And we saw lots of fishes
Swimming in the brook!
It made us feel like wading,
So we children took
All our shoes and stockings off"—

JACK: "Oh, pa! I saw a 'nake!'"

JULIA: "Oh, yes! he caught a teeny frog,
And then he tried to make
His dinner from him, but we got
A big long stick and threw"—

JACK: "Pa, pa, I heard a g'at big f'og
Say, 'Wer-oo! Wer-oo! Wer-oo!'"

MAMMA: "I saw the happy little folks
Having their vacation,
And I heard the glad noises
Of their jubilation.
Then I thought of papa working
In the stifling shop;
Of ten thousand other men
With no time to stop;
Of ten thousand mothers
Gasping in the heat;
Twice ten thousand children
Scorching in the street—
Then the proverb handed
From our fathers down,
'God made the country,
Man made the town,'

In my mind kept running,
While I hoped the day
Soon would dawn when every one
Would have time to play
With their wives and children,
In the country, too."

JACK: "O, pa! I heard a g'at big f'og
Say, 'Wer-oo! Wer-oo! Wer-oo!'"

BOYS' CAMP CLOSING.

Successful Summer's Work Attested by One Characteristic Incident—Girls at the Camp Enjoy Themselves.

Just as THE COMMONS goes to press for this issue, Camp Goodwill, at Elgin, is coming to a close. The last two weeks have been enjoyed by a party of the girls of the Chicago Commons neighborhood, nearly a score going out under the charge of Miss Carrie M. Clawson, of the settlement. They have enjoyed the camp fully as much as did the boys, and went swimming with as much zest, though it is but fair to add, with rather less freedom of dress!

One incident of the last days of the boys' stay at camp will serve to answer the many-times-repeated question, "Has this camp business any real effect upon character? Would the boys behave themselves there any better than they do in the city if there was no one watching them?" It has been the custom of the camp since its founding in May to have a simple vesper service every evening after supper, consisting of two or three familiar hymns, like "Abide With Me," "Now the Day Is Over," and "The Shadows of the Evening Hour," a chapter from the Bible and a short prayer. The boys have seemed to enjoy the service greatly.

A fortnight before the last of boys left, it was necessary for Mr. Weeks to spend one night in Chicago, and with some misgivings he left the camp somewhat to its own devices, one older boy who had been most helpful being left in charge. This letter from Mr. Weeks upon his return to the camp is self-explanatory:

MY DEAR —: If I needed any further proof that the camp work really was accomplishing something, I have it now. The report when I returned this morning was all one could wish. Things went just as if I had been here. Ed conducted the vesper service just as usual. He reports that no boy made the least trouble, and that everything went as smoothly as possible. Nothing could have given me more satisfaction than to find that I can trust the boys so much more than I had thought possible. But I don't believe it could have been done a month ago. I credit it to the influence of the camp.

Let this be the report to our friends who have helped us conduct the camp, with regard to the investment of their gifts!

It is only men collectively that live the life of man.—Goethe.

Side-Light Sketches

[FOR THE COMMONS.]

CHILDREN IN SUMMER.

Summer has come.
List to the hum!

Bees, birds, and butterflies, sweet-scented breeze,
Clover-blossoms bending, and fruit-laden trees,
Blossoms and grasses refreshed by the showers,
Old-fashioned gardens run-over with flowers,
Wheat-fields all golden, and hay-mows all sweet,
Cool plashing brook, for the small, dimpled feet,
Rich are the children, in Summer.

Summer has come.
List to the hum!

Rumbling of truck-wheels and traffic and cries;
Fetid and stifling the odors that rise;
Gaunt little children are swarming the street,
Seeking the shadows, to hide from the heat.
Pitiful wailings of babies in pain,
In pestilential rooms, where the Fever hath lain.

Doomed are the children, in Summer.

MRS. McVEAN-ADAMS.

THE CLOTHES AND THE CATSUP.

THIS very commonplace line of clothes, with the barrels underneath them, was the occasion of one of those serio-comic incidents

that add zest to the life in settlement neighborhoods. Upon a day in August a most extraordinary row was heard in progress a bit down the street from the settlement, and as its noise grew momentarily louder and the shrill cries of women in deadly peril or unrestrained anger rose higher and higher the Resident whose work by his window was thus disturbed ran hastily down the street to do what might be possible to save life or at least restore the peace. The scene upon which he arrived was one not soon to be forgotten.

IN THE midst of a large open court between the piano factory and the row of crowded tenements at the end of the block was a howling, fighting, frantic lot of women, distinctly divisible into two nationalities, Irish and Italian, and while the Irish women shrieked and cursed at the "Dagoes" in rich, brogueful profanity and vituperation, the Italians returned as good in their own soft language, which can become anything but soft under stress of violent emotion. And they were pounding, scratching, biting, pulling and hauling, as they fought, while under foot and torn between struggling hands was a heterogeneous collection of clothes, most of which were generously smeared with a thick red substance which might have been the

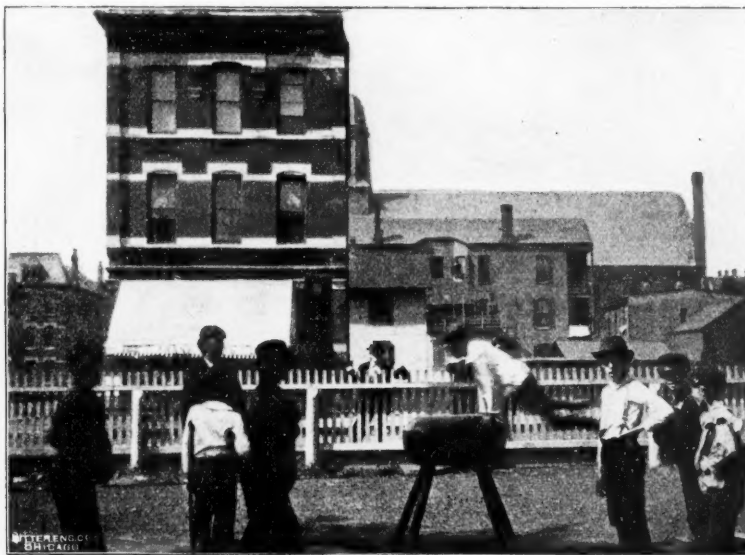


THE CLOTHES AND THE CATSUP.

brains of some vanquished Amazon, but which in reality was something quite different.

AT THIS season of the year it is the custom of the Italians to make a sort of tomato catsup, which they spread upon boards, and set in the sun to dry. It is a common sight in the tenements of Chicago to see large numbers of these red-smeared boards lying in the sun on garbage-boxes, steps and in windows. And there could be no more propitious place in which to dry a large area of catsup than in the yard between the piano factory and the tenements aforesaid.

tory fails to record whether an Italian housewife looked out and found the wet Irish clothes in her precious catsup, or whether an Irish laundress was first to find the nasty red stuff to be the landing-place of her clean laundry. Concerning this detail witnesses fail to agree. But there is no dispute about the fact that within twenty seconds after the discovery there was war. The Resident, who made the reckless hazard of attempting to be peacemaker in this riot of the races and the industries, was never able to form a judgment as to the comparative indignation of the Irish because their clothes were soiled and the Italians because of



A SCHOOL-YARD PLAYGROUND GLIMPSE.
Boys Using Some of the Turn Verein Apparatus.

BUT it chanced that Irish women live also upon the environs of that yard, and it is their custom to hang their wash out from their windows upon lines stretched between the buildings. It has been for years the usual thing to find upon August afternoons long lines of drying clothes hanging in the sun, and just underneath, upon the tops of barrels and boxes, rows of square boards plastered with the far more palatable than attractive-looking red catsup-paste.

UPON this day in question the proximity was fatal. For it chanced that a breeze blew through the yard, and some weak strand in the Irish clothes-line proved recreant. His-

the wreck and waste of their winter's catsup. But the battle was a mighty one, and it required persuasion, threats, some force, and a general use of extraordinary diplomacy to restore peace. The Resident finally smoothed matters over by helping the laundresses to restore their broken clothes-lines, and the housewives to scrape up and rescue such of their catsup as was not irrevocably lost. This photograph was taken only about an hour before the battle.

That one man should die ignorant who had a capacity for knowledge, this I call a tragedy.—*Carlyle*.

Chicago Commons Kindergarten Training School

Year Opens
. October 3, 1898 .

Two years' course in Kindergarten Theory and Practice. A course in Home Making. Industrial and Social Development Emphasized. Also a Mothers' Class.

INSTRUCTORS

BERTHA HOFER HEGNER, . . . Theory and "Mother-Play"
FREDERICA BEARD, . . . Theory of Gifts and History of Education
MISS P. H. DAVIS, . . . Studies in Expression
MARI RUEF HOFER, . . . Music and Physical Culture
MR. GEO. L. SCHREIBER, . . . Drawing, Color Work and Design
MRS. JOHN P. GAVIT, . . . Home Making and Occupations
PROF. GRAHAM TAYLOR, . . . Social Function of Education
SPECIALISTS on Psychology and Nature Study

There will be other **LECTURES** on **Special Subjects** during the year. For Circulars and particulars, address,

BERTHA HOFER HEGNER,
140 North Union Street, CHICAGO



"AMERICAN CO-OPERATIVE NEWS"
Organ of the Co-Operative Union of America.

Subscription Price - 50 Cents a Year.

Club rate, when ordered with "The Commons."
Both Magazines, one year, 75 cents.



THE DIRECT LINE

BETWEEN

Chicago
Indianapolis
Cincinnati
Lafayette AND ALL
Louisville POINTS
SOUTH

THROUGH SLEEPERS TO CINCINNATI AND WASHINGTON DAILY

FRANK J. REED, G. P. A.
CITY TICKET OFFICE, 232 CLARK ST.
CHICAGO.

